



NEWS RELEASE

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

National Agricultural Statistics Service • United States Department of Agriculture

P.O. Box 1659 • Richmond, Virginia 23218-1659 • Phone (804) 771-2493

Internet: nass-va@nass.usda.gov • World Wide Web: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/va>

Contact: Steven Manheimer, State Statistician

Number 12

Released: August 11, 2000

VIRGINIA'S FLUE-CURED AND BURLEY TOBACCO GROWERS EXPECT LOWER YIELDS IN 2000; COTTON AND PEANUT YIELDS HIGHER THAN 1999

Flue-cured tobacco yield is forecast lower than last year's record high and burley tobacco growers also expect lower yields this year. Cotton and peanut producers expect higher yields compared to last year's crop, according to the Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service.

Flue-cured tobacco yields are forecast at 2,350 pounds per acre and production is expected to total 40.0 million pounds from 17,000 acres, based on conditions as of August 1. This yield forecast is down 70 pounds per acre from last year's record high yield. Production for 2000 is 37 percent below last year, due to a reduction in quota and large carryover stocks. By August 6, a total of 14 percent of the State's flue-cured acreage was harvested, which is equal to the five-year average of 14 percent.

The State's burley tobacco yield is forecast at 2,100 pounds per acre, down 80 pounds from the 2,180 pounds per acre harvested in 1999. Production is expected to total 18.9 million pounds, down 18 percent from last year. Acres for harvest totaled 9,000, down from 10,600 acres in 1999. The cool, wet weather has dampened prospects for an exceptional year.

Peanut yield is expected to average 3,100 pounds per acre, compared to 2,870 in 1999. If realized this would be the second largest yield since 1991 at 3,200 pounds. Producers expect to harvest 75,000 acres, which is 1 percent below last year resulting in a production forecast of 232.5 million pounds, up 7 percent over 1999.

Virginia's cotton producers expect to harvest 722 pounds per acre from 109,000 acres for harvest. This yield forecast is 87 pounds per acre higher than last year's yield. Production is expected to total 164,000 bales, 15 percent higher than 1999. By July 30, most of the cotton crop was setting bolls and crop condition was rated in mostly good condition.

-over-

Cooperating with Virginia Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services

U.S. FLUE-CURED AND BURLEY TOBACCO GROWERS EXPECT HIGHER YIELDS IN 2000; COTTON AND PEANUT YIELDS HIGHER THAN 1999

Flue-cured production is forecast at 585.8 million pounds, down 11 percent from 1999. The yield is expected to average 2,307 pounds per acre, up 145 pounds from last year. Burley production is forecast at 398.3 million pounds, down 28 percent from 1999. The yield is expected to average 1,982 pounds per acre, up 153 pounds over last year. The major tobacco producing states have received very favorable weather conditions and ample moisture.

Peanut producers expect to harvest 3.8 billion pounds from 1.5 million acres. If realized, production would be 1 percent below 1999. Yields are expected to average 2,597 pounds per acre, 80 pounds below the previous year.

All Cotton production is forecast at 19.2 million 480-pound bales, up 13 percent from 1999. The yield is expected to average 648 pounds per harvested acre, up 41 pounds from last year. Drought conditions have resulted in abandoned acreage and reduced yields in parts of the Southeast and Texas. Producers expect to harvest 14.2 million acres, 6 percent above last year. Upland cotton accounts for 14.0 million harvested acres, 7 percent above 1999. American-Pima harvested acreage totaled 181,000 acres, 37 percent less than 1999. Upland cotton production is forecast at 18.7 million 480-pound bales, a 15 percent increase from 1999. Pima cotton production is forecast at 419.1 thousand 480-pound bales.

###